

Recycling and Refuse Management
Foam Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2012, Amherst DPW

1. In attendance: Sue Morrello, Christina Cox Fernandes, Colleen Manning Osten (nutritionist w/experience in food industry), Katie VanGeel, Martha Hanner, Cynthia Brubaker, Susan Waite, Colleen Kelly (Hitchcock Center)
2. Susan Morrello to be chairperson, Brenda to be secretary
3. Additional sponsorship
 - ~met with Hitchcock Ctr agreed to co-sponsor
 - ~can contribute to educational packet to be given to business
 - ~recommend health dept involved as sponsor
 - ~they will be involved in enforcing a ban
 - ~Sue W. to contact them---TO DO
4. MassPIRG bag ban
 - ~good ban, maybe bad timing
 - ~invited to come to meeting Thursday 5-10 to present
 - ~idea of bag ban is to mimic bottle bill strategy
 - ~will have more clout if have many towns supporting the ban
5. Discussion of bag ban
 - ~to develop statement to present to Mass PIRg
 - ~they want to post on town warrant article in the fall, need to collect signatures to do so--or need sponsorship from town committee
 - ~list of questions
 - ~have done survey of businesses that use plastic
 - ~what is monetary issues, financial study
 - ~consider paying for a bag
 - ~if switch to paper, will they be recycled or land-filled and emit methane
 - ~other communities experience of a ban..who has passed this?
6. Action Plan
 - ~1st-send mailed letter with info. and goal to rid foam
 - ~2nd-visit follow up
 - ~3rd-newspaper acknowledgement
 - ~4th-town meeting approach- draft in the works
 - ~issues of access---sourcing—do suppliers/vendors have other options, may need to establish new line of credit to begin with new suppliers
 - ~have inventory of Styrofoam™ (need to use up)

- ~Chamber of Commerce—Tony had said in past that he would research bulk buying of products. Brenda to contact Tony—TO DO
- ~Develop list of vendors of compostable products—ask Whole Foods-, Harp—pressed products from Greenfield, Mom's has reusable container they sell----Sue M to research Harp, —TO DO,
- ~If approach Cisco supplier for ie: guarantee that certain restaurants will buy so get discount
- ~Make display for Taste of Amherst of compostable products—Colleen—TO DO ie: trash cans with mouth eating the compost
- ~Reconsidering having signs at waste sorting stations about composting

7. Letter to restaurants

- ~letter to be sent out to committee and edited
- ~possibly add survey monkey—to get feedback
- ~add options, education ie: a “to-go” container primer for alternatives
- ~discussion on products
 - ~paper is best b/c will be composted in the future town wide

8. Invite to a focus group—those using and not using foam

- ~goal to get input and promote collaboration
- ~Foam Free--Raos, Loose Goose, Black Sheep, Harp, Baku, Whole Foods,
- ~Foam—Mom's, Jerry Jolly—Pub and Rafters, Judy's
- ~Use survey monkey tool to ask for info via restaurant survey
- ~develop focus group questions-----Colleen TO DO
- ~interested members:

9. Visit to restaurants

- ~have samples
- ~list of vendors

10. Timeframe

- ~1st--letter to restaurants out by May 20th Sue M. ----TO DO
- ~2nd--focus group— June 6th, 9-10 am —send invites, DPW, snacks, from our consortium
 - Sue W. to check on availability of DPW room for June 6th
 - Colleen to facilitate focus group
 - Cynthia Brubaker--- to write invite --TO DO,
 - Colleen to research successful towns going foam free--- TO DO
- ~3rd--visit with packet

11. Future Meetings

Next meeting will be at 9am AM on Wednesday, May 23 at the DPW.